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Fifth estate: Dragging down CBC current affairs?

Radio & TV by Joan Irwin

Canadian television networks don't go in for the wholesale slaughter of programs at mid-season as they do in the U.S. In this country we let program die slowly, with or without dignity.

This season we may be witnessing the lingering demise of a whole CBC-TV department — as the so-called current affairs series 'the fifth estate' threatens to drag the entire current affairs department into oblivion.

Current affairs wouldn't exactly disappear. It would become part of the news department, ending s long CBC tradition of separation between news and current affairs.

Headline chasers

Until quite recently it's been a sacred tenet within the CBC that the skills, motivations and attitudes of news people and current affairs eople were different and largely incompatible.

News staff was considered to be OK for chasing headlines and getting the facts right under deadline pressures, but not really up to the more thoughtful work of filling in the background, putting things in perspective, and assessing the implications of whatever was happening.

In the U.S., current affairs is part of the news operation — 60 Minutes, for instance, is a production of CBS News. A couple of years ago some of the CBC brass began to think about that, and to wonder if the separation here wasn't artificial.

It was a valid question, since the English network had been mucking up its major current affairs series so badly that it was dropped for two seasons.

A new current affairs chief was appointed and a huge budget was assigned to a new weekly current affairs series.

The result was the fifth estate, unashamedly modeled on 60 Minutes but sadly lacking in the journalistic expertise of its prototype.

The choice of 60 Minutes as a model was dubious from the beginning. It's the icing on the complete CBS news package — which is a half hour nightly newscast including not only Cronkite himself but also mini-documentaries and Eric Sevareid's comment.

The CBC-TV national news is still only 20 minutes long, and though it now contains much more in-depth reporting than before — often as mini-documentaries — it has no editorial comment on topical issues.

In other words, the base on which a 60 Minutes can be built is lacking, and besides, 60 Minutes rarely allows itself to be as out of touch with current issues and concerns as the fifth estate is week after week.

Last Tuesday, for instance, we were treated to a long piece about Graham Kerr, the former TV cook who is now publicizing himself as a quasi evangelist. It was a nice, bitchy bit of work, but who cares?

Then there was a fairly good human-interest segment from Portugal, followed by another human-interest story from the Maritimes heavy with Adrienne Clarkson's carefully modulated voice-of-concern.

It was a typical edition of the fifth estate — skillfully put together and very handsome, but dealing only in the periphery of Canadian experience and interest, with a smug confidence in its own cleverness.

So stifled?

Could a news department give us a current affairs series with more sense of immediacy, more excitement, more desire to wrench up society's rocks and look under them? There are those who think it could, though there's no evidence in such series as Newsmagazine for that assumption.

Or is CBC television so stifled in its own bureaucracy that only the bland are left to lead the bland? If that's the case department jurisdictions don't really matter much any more.

Keith Jarrett quartet

Lovely music the 'wrong way'

Keith Jarrett, at Salle Claude Chmpagne

By JUAN RODRIGUEZ
for The Gazette

Keith Jarrett is such a fascinating musician that even when one of his concerts is plagued by sound troubles — as was the case last night at Salle Claude Champagne — the pianist gave a performance characterized by his unique search for sound.

This was the Jarrett quartet's concert debut, after two successful stints at the In Concert Club, and it afforded an opportunity for the fine acoustics of the hall to house the group's sensitive acoustic interplay.

In this age of electronic paraphernalia, with its accent on synthesized sounds, Jarrett seeks the "electricity" that arrives when musicians are in real communication with their instruments.

The 30-year-old Jarrett, who started studying classical piano in early childhood, has most startlingly demonstrated the orchestral qualities of the acoustic piano — when it's played by someone attuned to it — in his solo recordings for the German jazz label ECM.

With his quartet, however, Jarrett likes to blend in with the profusion of sounds produced by his cohorts — bassist Charlie Haden, reedman Dewey Redman, and drummer Paul Motion. You will not find a more individualistic quartet in all of contemporary jazz.

They do not follow popular convention. They make beautiful music the "wrong way" — Motion literally crashes at his cymbals and Haden improvises upon rhythm without even stating it first.

So intense, in a cool introspective way, is their playing that they are able to suggest main structures by exploring the spaces in between. Out of nowhere a rumbling unrelenting rhythm will build up, to which Redman darts out abstractions or engages in contemporary throwbacks to styles rooted, unbelievably, in the 1930s (as well as the 1960 Ornette Coleman tradition).

Unfortunately, Jarrett was compelled to interrupt the beginning of a long rippling solo piano introduction, because the sound system was not faithful to the instruments and his piano sounded a might jarring to his ears. Jarrett was obviously disturbed, and this attracted hoots and whistles from the more restless members of the audience.

And when he resumed play, Jarrett led the group through a long angry burst of cacophony, not exactly what the admirers of his lyrical piano recitals expected to hear.

But to those who were listening, this tumult was yet another demonstration of the Jarrett quartet's power as a group. Their twisting and tumbling strains built up into a far more intriguing atmosphere than what is so often heard from the electricians.

Jarrett began his second show last night by apologizing for the previous concert, and, with a new piano in hand, he proceeded to give a super-inspired performance.

This group is remarkable; it is 'tight' because of the ability of its members to express themselves individually while on a collective search for the harmonics of their next notes. In this sense, this was a singularly adventurous musical voyage, guided by musicians whose entire approach is to get the most expression from their instruments.

TV TODAY

CBFT (2) Montreal
WCAX (3) Burlington, Vt.
CBOT (4) Ottawa
WPTZ (5) Plattsburgh, N.Y.
CBMT (6) Montreal
(6) Global TV, Ottawa
CHLT (7) Sherbrooke
WMTW (8) Poland Spring, Me.
CJOH (8) Cornwall
(9) Cable TV
NC (9) Nat'l Cablevision
CBOFT (9) Ottawa
CFTM (10) Montreal
CKWS (11) Kingston
CFCF (12) Montreal
CJOH (13) Ottawa
CIVM (17) Montreal
WVNY (22) Burlington, Vt.
WETK (33) Burlington, Vt.

12.00 noon
(2) (9) (11) Cher Oncle Bill
(3) Young & the Restless
(4) (5) (6) Bob McLean Show
(4) De tout de tous
(5) Magnificent Marble Machine
(6) Canadian Cavalcade
(7) Informa 7
(8) Showoffs
(9) NC German Diary
(8)/(13) (12) The Flintstones
(11) Truth or Consequences

12.30 p.m.
(2) (9) (11) Les Coqueluches
(3) Search for Tomorrow
(5) Three for the Money
(6) News at Noon
(7) (10) Les Tannants
(8) (22) All My Children
(8)/(13) Cartoon Party
(9) NC 24 Heures à la fois
(11) Kingston Calendar
(12) Movie—Comedy
A ticklish affair (Shirley Jones)

12.55 p.m.
(5) (6) CBC News

1.00 p.m.
(3) News & Weather
(4) Straight Goods
(4) Les Tannants
(5) Truth or Consequences
(6) Movie—Drama
The Immortal Sergeant (Henry Fonda, Thomas Mitchell)
(6) Larry Solway Show
(8) (22) Ryan's Hope
(8) (13) It Takes a Thief
(9) NC P'tites nouvelles du 9
(11) Mike Douglas Show

1.10 p.m.
(3) Across the Fence

1.30 p.m.
(2) (9) (11) Téléjournal
(3) As the World Turns
(4) (6) Any Woman Can Fix It
(5) Days of Our Lives
(6) Rimstead!
(7) Pourquoi pas
(8) (22) Let's Make a Deal
(9) (9) NC (17) Cours Scolaires
(10) A votre service

1.35 p.m.
(2) (9) (11) Femme d'aujourd'hui

2.00 p.m.
(4) (6) Love American Style
(4) Cinéma—Drame
La neige etait sale (Daniel Gélin)
(6) Horoscope Fortune Bingo
(8)/(13) Celebrity Dominoes

2.15 p.m.
(7) (10) Cinéma—Drame
Victor (Jean Gabin)
(9) (9) NC (17) Les Oraliens

2.30 p.m.
(2) (9) (11) Cinéma — Comédie
Le Nouveau Testament (Jacqueline Delubac, Charles Deschamps)
(3) (6) The Guiding Light
(4) (5) (6) (11) Edge of Night
(5) The Doctors
(8) (22) Rhyme & Reason
(8)/(13) (12) What's the Good Word
(9) (9) NC (17) Les Cent tours de contour

3.00 p.m.
(3) All in the Family
(5) (8)/(13) (12) Another World
(6) Money Talks
(8) Movie—Musical Comedy
Belles on Their Toes (Jeanne Crain, Myrna Hunter)
(9) (9) NC (17) Le Drame de la survie
(22) The Edge of Night
(33) Psychology Today

3.30 p.m.
(3) Match Game
(4) Le Sac décolle
(4) (5) (6) (11) Celebrity Cooks
(6) The Pink Panther
(9) (9) NC (17) Si l'monde savait
(33) Lilias, Yoga & You

4.00 p.m.
(2) (9) (11) Bobino
(3) Tattle Tales
(4) (5) (6) (11) Forest Rangers
(5) Somerset
(6) Gilligan's island
(7) (10) Escadrille sous-marine
(8) Batman
(8)/(13) Definition
(9) (9) NC (17) En se racontant l'histoire d'ici
(12) Celebrity Dominoes
(33) Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood

4.30 p.m.
(2) (9) (11) Fanfreluche
(3) Ironside
(4) (5) (6) (11) Comin' Up Rosie
(4) Cinéma—Adventures
Tarzan chez les coupeurs de têtes (Kirk Morris, Laura Brown)
(5) Merv Griffin Show
(6) The Monkees
(7) (10) Patofville
(8) The Munsters
(8)/(13) The Lucy Show
(12) (22) The Flintstones
(33) Sesame Street

5.00 p.m.
(2) (9) (11) Cosmos 1999
(4) (6) Hi Diddle Day
(5) The Partridge Family
(6) Hogan's Heroes

(7) (10) Le Ranch "L"
(8) Bewitched
(8)/(13) The Brady Bunch
(9) (9) NC (17) Le Sens de la Vie
(11) Santa Claus Show
(12) It's Your Move
(22) Happy Days

5.30 p.m.
(3) Beverly Hillbillies
(4) (6) (11) The Partridge Family
(5) Open Line with Bob
(6) That Girl
(8) Newscircle
(8)/(13) Get Smart
(12) The Price Is Right
(22) The Big Valley
(33) The Electric Company

6.00 p.m.
(2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (6) (8)/(13) (9) (11) (12) News; Weather; Sports
(4) Bob Newhart Show
(4) (7) (10) Parle Parle, Jase Jase
(9) (9) NC (17) Tourlou
(11) Match Game '75
(33) Villa Alegre

6.15 p.m.
(9) (9) NC (17) Elans d'athlètes

6.30 p.m.
(4) (11) News; Weather; Sports
(5) NBC News
(6) Adam 12
(8) Hogan's Heroes
(22) ABC News
(33) Psychology Today

6.45 a.m.
(9) (9) NC (17) Auto-Nomie

7.00 p.m.
(2) Quelle Famille!
(3) CBS News
(4) Aujourd'hui
(5) Adam 12
(5) (6) The Onedin Line
(6) The Odd Couple
(7) Quelqu'un quelque part
(8) The F.B.I.
(8)/(13) (12) That's My Mama
(9) (9) NC (17) L'Evolution de l'Homme
(10) Le 10 Vous Informe
(11) Tony Orlando & Dawn
(22) The Flintstones
(33) Classic Theatre Preview

7.30 p.m.
(2) (9) (11) Jo
(3) Hollywood Squares
(4) Phi!?
(4) (7) (10) Les Berger
(5) Treasure Hunt
(6) Movie—Comedy
My Six Loves (Debbie Reynolds, Cliff Robertson)
(8)/(13) (12) The Happy Prince
(22) Mickey Mouse Club
(33) Evening Edition

8.00 p.m.
(2) (9) (11) Y a pas de problème
(3) (4) (5) (6) (11) Rhoda
(4) (7) (10) A la Canadienne
(5) Billy Graham
(8)/(13) (12) The Invisible Man
(8) (22) Mobile One
(9) (9) NC (17) Feminitude
(33) Why Me?
In performance at Wolf Trap

8.30 p.m.
(2) (9) (11) Avec le temps
(3) Phyllis
(4) (5) (6) (11) Front Page Challenge
(4) (7) (10) Médecin d'aujourd'hui
(9) (9) NC (17) Ce coin de pays

9.00 p.m.
(2) (9) (11) Cinéma—Drame
Madigan: Conquête à Park Avenue (Richard Widmark)
(3) (4) (5) (6) (11) All in the Family
(5) Movie—Drama
Butterflies Are Free (Goldie Hawn, Edward Albert, Eileen Heckart)
(8) (22) NFL Football
Miami at New England
(8)/(13) (12) Petrocelli
(9) (9) NC (17) Histoire sur le vif
(33) Dossier or Default

9.30 p.m.
(3) (6) Maude
(4) (5) (6) (11) Chico & the Man
(4) (7) (10) L'Univers de Yoland Guérard

10.00 p.m.
(3) Medical Center
(4) (5) (6) (11) Newsmagazine
(6) Global News
(8)/(13) (12) Bobby Winton Show
(9) Sports Heritage
(9) NC C.E.C.O.
(33) A Family at War

10.30 p.m.
(2) (9) (11) Téléjournal
(4) (5) (6) (11) Man Alive
(4) (7) (10) Les Nouvelles TVA
(8)/(13) (12) Pig & Whistle

11.00 p.m.
(2) (9) (11) Un grand défi
(3) (4) (5) (5) (6) (8)/(13) (11) (12) News; Weather; Sports
(6) Rimstead!
(7) Informa 7
(9) Tele Sports Digest
(10) La Couleur du temps

11.05 p.m.
(4) Cinéma—Western
Arizona (Jean Arthur, William Holden)

11.15 p.m.
(7) (10) Cinéma—Drame
Le Dernier Pont. ('54) Maria Schell, Bernhard Wicki.

11.20 p.m.
(5) Merv Griffin Show

11.30 p.m.
(3) Movie—Suspense
Starring Mia Farrow, Robin Bailey and Dorothy Alison.
(5) Tonight Show
(6) In Private Life . . .
(8) News

11.45 p.m.
(8) NCAA Highlights
(22) Twilight Zone

11.50 p.m.
(4) Ryan

11.55 p.m.
(6) Movie—Drama
Maid of Salem. ('37) Claudette Colbert, Fred MacMurray and Gale Sondergard star.

12.00 Midnight
(2) (9) (11) Joseph Balsamo
(8)/(13) Movie—Adventure
How to Steal an Airplane. ('71) Peter Duel, Clinton Greyn and Sal Mineo.
(11) Movie—Western
Winchester 73. ('50) James Stewart, Shelley Winters.
(12) Movie—Drama
The Lost Flight. ('69) Starring Lloyd Bridges, Anne Francis and Ralph Meeker.

12.30 a.m.
(9) NC Tele Sports Digest

1.00 a.m.
(5) Tomorrow Show

2.00 a.m.
(9) NC 24 Heures à la fois

2.30 p.m.
(9) NC Si le monde savait

3.00 a.m.
(9) NC En se racontant l'histoire d'ici

On the airwaves

8:03 p.m. (CBC-FM) Ideas. The 1975 Massey Lectures — Limits to Science. Tonight: The Eye of the Revolution.

8:30 p.m. (CBC-AM) Identities. A special music and variety show recorded on location in a predominently black neighborhood. Host Daryl Auwai talks with local hip characters.

9:00 p.m. (CBC-FM) CBC Monday Evening. (1) Mahler and the Fifth Symphony. Conductor Harry Newstone considers the Austrian composer's great work and draws on examples from the recorded repertoire of some famous conductors. (2) A Vancouver Recital. The music of Mozart, Mendelssohn and Poulenc performed by pianist Linda Lee Thomas.

10:30 p.m. (CBC-AM) The Great Canadian Gold Rush. A studio session with Winnipeg rock group Papa Pluto.

11:00 p.m. (CFQR-FM) On Stage with the MSO. Conductor Robert Shaw is the guest tonight.

School gets $600,000 ballet grant

OTTAWA — (CP) — A grant of $600,000, almost double the last one, was announced late last week by the Canada Council for the National Ballet School in Toronto.

The council said the increase from $320,000 last year is necessary to "prevent serious erosion of the school's academic and professional program."

It said the school operates under spartan physical conditions with dedicated teachers who are paid "much less" than those in the public school system.

Tim Porteous, the council's acting director, said the National Theatre School in Montreal is in the same tight financial bind and "it is essential that consideration be given by all provinces to support of these schools."

The National Theatre School was granted $800,000 in March, up from $560,000.

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Conductor, choral works specialist Robert Shaw
Soloists:
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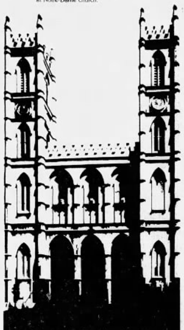
Florence Kofleff, mezzo-soprano
Robert Tear, tenor
Donald Bell, bass
MSO Choir

Tickets: $4, $6, $8
On sale at Place des Arts and, the night of the concert, at Notre-Dame church.



MSO Montreal Symphony Orchestra
Frühbeck de Burgos musical director

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VIENNA BOYS CHOIR	M	Dec. 16-17 7:30 p.m.	$8 $7 $5 $4
20th CENTURY BALLET Dir. MAURICE BEJART — SOLD OUT	M	8:30 p.m.	$15 $13 $6 $4
MAZOWSZE POLISH SONG & DANCE COMPANY Company of 100	WP	Jan. 15-17 8:30 p.m. Jan. 18 2:30 p.m.	$10 $8 $6 $4 $3
RICHARD & JOHN CONTIGUGLIA 2 Pianos Beethoven's 9th	WP	Feb. 2 8:30 p.m.	$8 $7 $6 $4 $3
LES BALLETS JAZZ	WP	Feb. 6-7 8:30 p.m.	$8 $7 $6 $4 $3
JULIUS BAKER Flutist	M	Feb. 9 8:30 p.m.	$8 $7 $5 $4
ARTHUR RUBINSTEIN Pianist	WP	March 1 8:30 p.m.	$15 $10 $8 $6 $5
POLISH MIME THEATRE	M	March 11-13 8:30 p.m.	$8 $7 $5 $4
VLADIMIR ASHKENAZY Pianist — Beethoven, Chopin	WP	March 15 8:30 p.m.	$10 $8 $7 $5 $4
NICOLAI PETROV Pianist	WP	April 19 8:30 p.m.	$8 $7 $6 $4 $3
FOLKLORIC DANCE ENSEMBLE OF JAPAN (Minzoku Buyo Dan)	WP	May 6-8 8:30 p.m.	$8 $7 $6 $4 $3

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